

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 007878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. SUDAN: ETHIOPIAN CRISIS ABATES

EMBASSY KHARTOUM REPORTS THAT TENSION BETWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA SEEMS TO BE ABATING. THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO KHARTOUM ON JANUARY 12, AND TOLD AMBASSADOR BREWER HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO APPROACH THE GOS TO SEE IF BORDER FRICTIONS CAN BE REDUCED. MEANWHILE, NIMEIRI'S CAMPAIGN TO RALLY SUPPORT FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES APPEARS TO HAVE SLACKENED. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HAVING MADE--IF NOT OVERSTATED--ITS CASE, THE GOS NOW DESIRES TO LOWER THE TENSION. HOWEVER, IT CAUTIONS THAT THE EASING OF THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS DOES NOT MEAN A LESS-SECRET

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ENING OF NIMEIRI'S SUSPICION OF LIBYAN MACHINATIONS ON HIS BORDERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 118, 1/13.)

### 2. ARGENTINA: HARDLINERS WAITING IN THE WINGS

ARGENTINA'S NEW PLANNING MINISTER DIAZ BESSONE TOLD AMBAS-  
SADOR HILL JANUARY 10 THAT HARDLINERS WHO FEAR A RESUR-

GENCE OF A POLITICIZED LABOR MOVEMENT WILL FORCE CHANGES  
IN THE GOVERNMENT BY MID-1977 "AT THE LATEST." HE SAID

THE VACILLATING STYLE OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP CANNOT CON-  
TINUE, AND IMPLIED THAT BOTH ARMY CHIEF VIOLA AND JUNTA  
PRESIDENT VIDELA MAY BE FORCED TO STEP DOWN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: DIAZ BESSONE IS AMBITIOUS AND CONFIDENT,  
IF NOT PARTICULARLY DISCREET. IF THE CHANGES HE PREDICTS  
DO OCCUR, HE COULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THEM. (SECRET)  
BUENOS AIRES 284, 1/13.)

### 3. YUGOSLAV INTELLECTUAL VIEWS TITO SUCCESSION

DISSIDENT PROFESSOR MIHAJLO MARKOVIC HAS TOLD EMBASSY BEL-  
GRADE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO WILL SUCCEED TITO AS YUGOSLAV  
PRESIDENT, BUT THAT IT WILL NOT BE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
CHIEF DOLANC. MARKOVIC BELIEVES DOLANC'S POWER ACTUALLY  
RESTS ON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MARSHAL, AND WILL  
DIMINISH RATHER THAN INCREASE AFTER TITO. HE ARGUES THAT  
POWER BELOW THE GOY'S TOP LEVEL RESTS WITH THE REPUBLICS,  
AND THAT DOLANC LACKS A POLITICAL BASE IN HIS NATIVE SLO-  
VENIA DESPITE EFFORTS BY KARDELJ TO HELP HIM BUILD UP HIS  
INFLUENCE THERE. CONTRARY TO SOME OTHER ANALYSES, MARKO-  
VIC SAYS DOLANC DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MARKOVIC IS A PERCEPTIVE OBSERVER WITH  
HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS. HIS STATEMENTS SUPPORT OUR OWN THAT  
NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES DOLANC WILL BE CHOSEN TO SUCCEED  
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TITO. (CONFIDENTIAL) BELGRADE 198, 1/13.)

### 4. BRITISH UNIONS LOSING PATIENCE WITH LABOR LEFT

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT A GROWING RESTIVENESS AMONG  
TRADE UNION LEADERS AT THE LEFTIST DRIFT OF THE LABOR  
PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) BOILED OVER  
JANUARY 11 INTO SHARP CRITICISM OF THE NEC AT A MEETING  
CALLED TO DISCUSS PARTY FINANCES. MINERS' PRESIDENT JOE  
GORMLEY AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS BLASTED THE NEC FOR ITS  
CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT ON CRITICAL ISSUES  
AND ITS FAILURE TO COUNTER PENETRATION BY EXTREME LEFTISTS.  
A MAJORITY OF THE UNION REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING M  
MADE CLEAR THAT THE NEC'S ATTACKS ON THE SOCIAL CONTRACT  
WERE JEOPARDIZING THE UNION CONTRIBUTIONS ON WHICH THE  
PARTY'S FINANCES DEPEND.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR JUST HOW DEEP IT  
GOES, BUT THE UNIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY UPSET AT THE UNSEEMLY

IMAGE OF A PARTY EXECUTIVE AT ODDS WITH ITS OWN GOVERNMENT.  
THE NEC CANNOT IGNORE THIS WARNING SHOT ACROSS ITS BOWS, OR  
IT WILL RISK A MUCH SHARPER CHALLENGE TO ITS LEADERSHIP.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 634, 1/13.)  
KISSINGER

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